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of
PORTSLADE-BY-SEA

REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
for the Year 1941,

BY
N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.D., also M.O.H. of Hove.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, A.M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.
To 10th August, 1941.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.
From 11th August, 1941.

PHYSICIANS TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRES —

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

Miss D. A. CAREW HUNT, M.D., London.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE—

Nurse TURNER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Certificate

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1941, which on this occasion is not only reduced in size for economy reasons but in accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health is devoid of any information which might enable the enemy to estimate the aggregation of population in the area.

Once again I have to record with gratification the continued good health of all sections of the population despite the increasing stringencies of war-time conditions and the year was a specially light one in respect of Infectious Disease, only 10 cases of Measles being notified instead of 113, and 1 case of Diphtheria instead of 4 as in 1940. Whooping Cough on the other hand shewed an increase of 26 cases. In a similar way only 12 cases of Infectious Disease were removed to the Sanatorium as against 23 in the previous year.

There was a slight rise in the Birth Rate and a considerable drop in the Death Rate in 1941. The Infant Mortality Rate which in the previous year had risen to 64 per 1,000 births shewed a welcome reduction to 42—a figure well below the average for the whole country (59). There were no maternal deaths and no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough.

There has been throughout the country an increase in cases of Tuberculosis, particularly of the Respiratory Type in young women between the ages 15—25, and it is perhaps


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a little significant that in Portslade 5 out of the 9 new notifications were between these ages. It is probable that the main factors responsible up to the present are strain, black-out, long working hours rather than food restrictions which in 1941 could hardly have begun to take effect. The arrangements for the treatment for the new cases are reasonably satisfactory bearing in mind the demands for beds at Robertsbridge but the provision of special accommodation for chronic and advanced cases is urgently required. This type of case although not numerous in Portslade constitutes a great difficulty when it arises.

The Casualty Branch of the Civil Defence Service were not called upon to any extent during 1941, but their training and efficiency was well maintained.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,



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In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

SANITARY INSPECTION—The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :—

Houses inspected for housing defects	...	102
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts		220
Houses inspected after complaints	...	104
Premises disinfected	... ..	9
Informal notices issued (Housing & P.H. Acts)		137
Statutory notices issued	„ „ „	11
Houses found dirty	... ..	34
„ with insufficient bins	... ..	58
Drains defective	... ..	46
Closets	„	45
Sinks	„	27
Roofs and Gutters defective	... ..	40
Paving of Yards defective	... ..	7
Damp & Defective Walls, Ceilings, Floors, etc.		119
Cesspools defective	... ..	4
Offensive Accumulations	... ..	7

RATS AND MICE—The Sanitary Inspector acts as Officer under this Act, tins of poison with handbills were given free to applicants and infested premises inspected.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 16 Council Houses were found to be infested to a varying degree and 9 Non-Council Houses. The whole of these houses were disinfected as follows :—

- (2) By removing or easing all woodwork, skirting-boards, architraves, etc., and thoroughly spraying with special liquids.

In all cases the work has been carried out by the Council and in the case of Non-Council Houses the cost of materials used has been charged to the Landlord.

- (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses, are that, all premises and furniture of persons about to move into Council Houses are inspected prior to removal

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	102
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				198
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	40
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				70
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	102

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :—	
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation	0
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation	0

D-Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	7
(ii)	Number of families therein	7
(iii)	Number of persons	60
(b)	Number of new cases reported during the year	—
(c) (i)	Number of cases relieved	—
(ii)	Number of persons concerned	—

Total number of houses in the area is estimated to be 3472. Many of these houses in the older parts of the town are not up to modern standards, but with continued inspection remain quite serviceable.

There is no evidence of any widespread overcrowding although a considerable number of families continue to live under inconvenient and unsuitable surroundings.

FITNESS OF HOUSES—There has been no difficulty in dealing with the defects found in houses ; water supply and drainage are sufficient. All houses with the exception of 9 have water-closets.

BYE-LAWS—Are sufficient : No difficulty has arisen in their enforcement No case of illness due to housing faults has come to my notice.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY—There are only 2 farms in the district from which milk is supplied ; these are kept in a satisfactory

There are 4 dairies in the district, 5 Cowkeepers, 1 vendor of skim milk only, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

MEAT.—There are two Slaughter-houses in the district. These were closed immediately after the outbreak of War.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1940.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Re- moved Hospitl	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	10				1	1	4	2	2	2				9	
Erysipelas ...	7									1	4	2			
Pneumonia ...	16				1		2		2	2	4	3	2		4
Diphtheria ...	1							1						1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2									2				1	
Ophthalmia neon- tatorum ...															
Measles ...	10	1	1	1	2	1	4								
Whooping Cough	44	4	6	4	7	6	16			1				1	
	90	5	7	5	11	8	26	3	2	8	8	5	2	12	4

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
25	...	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		3	6	2	3	1	2	—	—

